



Churchfield Community Association

The newsletter of the Churchfield Community Association (CCA) - Issue 23, Summer 2010

The Churchfield Community Association welcomes people living and working around Churchfield Road who are interested in making a difference to our area

Happy Birthday to the CCA —10 years old this year

Changing Colour - Our New Councillors

Sara Nathan

The general election in May saw not just the country change political colour but also our constituency (from red to blue); and our ward (from blue to red).

All three of our incoming Labour councillors have introduced themselves to CCA members, either by visiting the market stall or attending our summer garden party.

It seemed like a good opportunity to find out more about our newly-elected council members.

Patricia Walker comes to us from North Greenford Ward to which she was elected in 2006. She holds the Cabinet responsibility for education, children and young people. Maybe that is because her day job is as a Senior Lecturer in Research in Education at the University of East London.

She has published on multicultural education, race and ethnicity, and co-edited *Learning and teaching in the Metropolis*, which came out earlier this year. Patricia went to school in Newcastle, then on to Hull



Patricia Walker



Abdullah Gulaid



Daniel Crawford

University followed by post-graduate work at Newcastle Poly and a PhD from Oxford Brookes. As is becoming a bit of a tradition in Acton Central, both her mother and grandfather were also councillors.

*Creating the right environment
to raise children*

Abdullah Gulaid, of Somali background, has lived in Acton since 1982 and in Acton Central since 1997. He is a research pharmacist, when he is not being a councillor, and holds degrees in chemistry from London University and a PhD from the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith Hospital.

Dr Gulaid previously stood for election in the Southfield ward and he is a governor of Southfield School. By the end of his first term as a councillor, he says, "I would like to see Acton have the right environment to raise families: education, health and security."

Daniel Crawford comes from an Acton political dynasty: his mother, Kate, is a councillor for East Acton. He was born in Wolverhampton, but has lived here for 23 years. Dan was educated at Derwentwater Nursery, St. Saviour's, Christchurch and Twyford schools, followed by Exeter University.

He was born with cerebral palsy, which may be why he has an interest in health and disability issues. When he is not being a councillor, he describes himself as a journalist and media consultant. In his first term he would like to, "eradicate street drinking on the Mount."

You can find details about how to contact our councillors and when they hold surgeries on the CCA website at www.churchfield.org.

KEEP AN EYE ON THE WEBSITE (www.churchfield.org)

Help at Hand in Hard Financial Times: Clarke & Co

Susanne Hickmott

As part of our 'shop local' theme we will be regularly featuring local businesses that provide us with a friendly and convenient service

Walk along Churchfield Road from the station to the corner of Burlington Gardens and you will see smart business premises with quality frontage and signage marked 'Clarke & Co' and 'Datacount Ltd.'

Step inside and you will find a friendly and welcoming reception area with courteous staff. All under one roof, there is the professional expertise to support a growing number of us who are free-lance, contract workers or manage our own businesses, or those of us who want a simple tax return completion service or more complex advice about financial planning.

Clarke & Co is a four partner firm of chartered accountants with about fifteen professional support staff. Originally established in Chiswick in the 1930s, they moved to newly refurbished business premises in Churchfield Road over twenty years ago. Their culture and ethos are very much family orientated. This has been retained over the years in servicing the local business community.

The company offers a range of accountancy, taxation, audit and financial planning services. For organisations seeking to outsource any specific functions, such as book-keeping, payroll,



Three of the partners: Nicholas Law Pak Chong, Kishor Pandya and Matthew Stower

etc, they can also assist in providing cost effective solutions. This service frees up business proprietors to concentrate on their main income-earning activities as well as having quality time for their families.

All the partners are fully qualified chartered accountants, as well as being members of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. The quality of their staffing is shown in the success of their

students in professional body examinations. They have managed a number of prize winners over the years. Two of the partners, Kishor Pandya and Philip Cambray, in addition to being general practitioners, have many years experience of financial planning and giving investment advice.

Clarke and Co have demonstrated a long-standing commitment to Churchfield Road and the surrounding area. They say that improvements in fly-tipping and cleanliness along the road are very welcome, as are the new parking arrangements.

Matthew Stower, another partner of Clarke & Co, has been the Treasurer of the CCA since its beginning, and has kept us in financial health. He has guided and advised us along the way with his expert advice and wisdom, for which we offer our sincere thanks.

So, in September, when the adverts come along for deadlines in our personal tax, we know where to head, and 'stay local' for the solution.

*Clarke & Co, Acorn House, 33 Churchfield Road, London W3 6AY
tel. 020 8993 5931*

Matthew Stower: mts@clarke-acct.co.uk

EVENTS

See: www.churchfield.org

E: churchfield@toucansurf.com

REGULAR EVENTS

- ♦ **'First Wednesday' Socials—from 8pm**
Meet your neighbours at:
The Rocket, George & Dragon, The Station House, or L'Oriental,
(see website for details)
- ♦ **Graffiti paint-out:**
The council is now getting rid of graffiti quickly; if you spot any, contact Sara Nathan: 0777 564 4134

SPECIAL EVENTS

- ♦ *Saturday 10 July, 12-7pm,*
Acton Park
Acton Carnival
A parade, entertainment & stalls. The CCA will be running its usual stall—bric-a-brac, jewellery & a tombola
- ♦ *Friday 23 July, 6-9pm,*
Shakespeare Road
Derwentwater School Summer Party
The CCA will be helping to raise money for the school. Contact Philippe Bruyer if you can help staff our stall
- ♦ *Sat 11 Sept, 12.30pm,*
Acton Park
CCA picnic
Rain or shine, come along with a picnic & meet friends and neighbours
- ♦ *Friday 15 Oct, 7.30pm,*
Venue TBC - see website
CCA Quiz
Pit your knowledge and wits against the current champions

Summer Party — the best ever

Mike Morris

This year was the third time we have opened the garden of 34 Goldsmith Road for the CCA Summer Party.

Everyone was determined to make this party one to remember, because it celebrated the tenth anniversary of the CCA. There's no doubt this was the best ever. More than sixty members came along and there was a flock of children too. Thanks to Ros Fisher's well chosen kids' amusements, they had a great time.

Ros also put together a display of pictures and posters, showing the Association's activities over the years and advertising future events.

The biggest innovation this time was to have some live music. This was provided by the Reverend David Brammer, from St Mary's, and friends. David proved to be a mean performer on the saxophone and gave us just the right summery tempo for a languorous Sunday afternoon. Music could



Photo: Tam Doran

Reverend David Brammer—a mean sax player

turn out to be a regular feature of the Summer Party—if the band can be persuaded to come back.

It was nice to see a sprinkling of ward councillors, both Labour and Conservative. The previous Labour group were most supportive when setting up the Association, so it was good to see two of the new Labour councillors, Dan Crawford and Abdullah Gulaid, in the garden. Also present was Vlod Barchuk, one of the outgoing Conservatives. "Plenty of time now to do my garden," he said.

We had polished up our garden to concert pitch. Apparently the hard winter did wonders for the roses, and there was certainly a good show.

Once again, Philippe Bruyer, a professional chef by training and the executive member responsible for social events, did wonders with the catering. To see him put together food for sixty people in just over an hour without any kitchen tantrums was awesome.

Above all, thanks to all the members who supported this event. It was great to see so many new faces. Thanks too for all the bottles. We made a substantial liquid profit, which means we won't have to spend money on wine for the AGM in November.

And finally, thanks to the weather gods. We've had perfect days every year so far – can our luck hold in 2011? Rain or shine, I hope to see you back here for CCA summer party number four.

Relatively Local — The Actonians

Gillian Fisher

The house that my two sisters (Elizabeth and Rosalind), our father and I live in has seen a great many changes since it was built in 1879. Three generations of Fishers have lived here along with numerous pampered pets.

Our family history in Acton dates back to the 1920s when our Great Great Aunt Annie lived here. Our 95-year-old Great Aunt Cathy remembers visiting her and her Uncle Will as a child and being told by her mother to stay quiet and keep her gloves on as she was in a very smart area!

Acton has always been our home, so elements of it form a huge part of



Gill, Ros & Lizzie Fisher

our childhood. During our lifetimes we have seen many changes.

We remember using the Mr. Whippy machine in Tony Bros, attending the children's drama club at Acton

Trade Union Club, and getting hot baguettes from Lehanes.

Still thriving are: Twyford Sports' Centre where we had our birthday parties, St Mary's church where we all attended Sunday school, and Acton Swimming Baths where we learnt to swim.

Now that we are adults, the area is still a central part of our lives—from getting excited when the fair is in Acton Park to having a trim by Sonia at Pro Hands. But the main feature of Acton that makes us feel at home is its local people. We recently attended the CCA's supper quiz and had such a wonderful time. Although winning helped (smug smile), it was the warmth and friendliness of the evening that made it such fun.

I think the way that our Grandpa always noted us down in his diary, when we organised a visit, defines perfectly what we are and what we always will be: "Weekend of the 25th, coming – the Actonians."

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On Track

After 14 weeks of closure, London Overground services between Gospel Oak and Stratford resumed as planned on 1st June. Track has been renewed, signalling upgraded and platforms lengthened.

This is part of the project to improve the service in time for the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games. Passengers should get a more reliable service with longer trains and increased frequency.

Information available at:
www.networkrail.co.uk/northlondonline

Helpline: 08457 11 41 41

Ward Forum — 23rd June

Nancy Duin

Future plans:

- ◆ £400,000 (50% from English Heritage) to be spent on restoring the frontages of eight buildings on the High Street, from Menos Lighting to Acton Hill church.
- ◆ Freshwaters, the owners of Jeffrey's House, opposite The Libertaire, have been in recent talks with the council about regeneration, so progress seems to be happening here for the first time in 24 years.
- ◆ *Safer Neighbourhood Team:* there's been an increase in all crime, except crime to do with motor vehicles - particularly burglaries. The SNT is aware of many complaints about drug dealing and there is a police operation currently underway.
- ◆ Suggestions for how to spend ward forum money (£40,000) included: an open-air gym in the park, fixing up Springfield Gardens, and giving £2000 to Acton Carnival (to match money already donated by East Acton Ward).

What's new on Churchfield Road?



Churchfield Road from the church tower
Photo: Tom Doran

- ◆ **Coffee Shop: Just the Ticket**
Next to Acton Central Station
- ◆ **W3 Stationers:** no. 24
Owned by Mr Arun Taank who used to own the post office, and whose son, Nish, owns Pearls Dry Cleaners
- ◆ **Poet's Brasserie:** no. 41
Not open yet; replaces Mijori
- ◆ **Nara's Beauty Clinic:** no. 92
Body treatments, electrolysis, manicure, massage, pedicure, skin care, threading, waxing
- ◆ **Renita: Hair and Beauty:**
no.100 (opens 1 July)
Treatments such as waxing, threading, facials & nails.
Run by three sisters for women only—a safe space for women to feel comfortable
- ◆ **Frank's Café:** no.128
'Good honest traditional Homemade Food.'

Wrestling with knotty questions

Judith Elliott



Photo: Ros Fisher

Another quiz night at Kalinka! Over wine, meze, chicken wings and other delicious Turkish food, the teams wrestled with the knotty questions set by Paul and Philippe. These covered general knowledge (music of 1978! Who's dead and who's alive!), anagrams, picture rounds and plenty more.

The Fisher Family won against Acton Suspiciously, Maldon Salts and Haven't Got a Clue. A packed room, a great atmosphere—and an impressive range of expertise from contestants ranging from the very young to the pretty old.

JOINING THE CCA

Being a CCA member means you can vote at meetings, will receive invitations to members' events and join the Acton Central email group.

Membership fee: £8 (£3.50 for unwaged and pensioners) or £5 for direct debit (£2 unwaged and pensioners).



CCA bag: free to members. Email or see website

CCA on the Net

For information on Churchfield Road and beyond in Acton, see CCA and ActonW3 websites:

www.churchfield.org

www.ActonW3.com

Acton Central Email Group

The email group is open to all CCA members for free. Anyone in the group can post a message or contribute to any discussion. If you would like to join, please send an email to: Actoncentralemailgroup-subscribe@yahooogroups.com; or have a look at the web page at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/actoncentralemailgroup>